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Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mehmet **Samsar** (Turkey)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 56/18 of 29 November 2001.

2. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 27 September 2002, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57, 58 and 60 to 73, which was held at the 2nd to 10th meetings, from 30 September to 4 October and on 7, 9 and 10 October (see A/C.1/57/PV.2-10). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 11th to 16th meetings, from 14 to 18 October (see A/C.1/57/PV.11-16). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 17th to 23rd meetings, from 21 to 23 and on 25, 28 and 29 October (see A/C.1/57/PV.17-23).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a letter dated 24 June 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting a joint statement issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the South-East European Cooperation Process at their meeting in Belgrade on 19 June 2002 (A/57/98-S/2002/705).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.47/Rev.1

5. At the 16th meeting, on 18 October, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on behalf of Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe" (A/C.1/57/L.47/Rev.1). Subsequently, Liechtenstein and the Russian Federation joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 20th meeting, on 23 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.47/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Recalling further its resolutions 48/84 B of 16 December 1993, 50/80 B of 12 December 1995, 51/55 of 10 December 1996, 52/48 of 9 December 1997, 53/71 of 4 December 1998, 54/62 of 1 December 1999, 55/27 of 20 November 2000 and 56/18 of 29 November 2001,

Convinced of the necessity of enhancing the overall conflict prevention and resolution capability of the United Nations system and other relevant regional organizations to prevent the outbreak of conflicts,

Emphasizing the crucial importance of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and stressing, inter alia, the role and responsibility of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, supported by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, and of the Kosovo Force in that regard, as well as the importance of the implementation of Security

[1] See resolution 55/2.

Council resolutions 1345 (2001) of 21 March 2001 and 1371 (2001) of 26 September 2001,

Reiterating the importance of the South-East European Cooperation Process and its contribution to security, stability and good-neighbourly relations in South-Eastern Europe, and recalling in particular the Joint Statement issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the South-East European Cooperation Process in Belgrade on 19 June 2002,[2]

Welcoming the progress made in the normalization of relations among all States of the Balkan region,

Reaffirming the validity of the Agreement for the delineation of the borderline between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, signed in Skopje on 23 February 2001,[3]

Welcoming the signing of stabilization and association agreements and/or European agreements between the countries of the region and the European Union and its member States,

Emphasizing the crucial importance of strengthening regional efforts in South-Eastern Europe on arms control, demining, disarmament and confidence-building measures, and concerned that, in spite of the ongoing efforts, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects persists,

Welcoming the establishment by the United Nations Development Programme and the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe of the small arms clearing house in Belgrade, and affirming its support for all initiatives in the region for combating the destabilizing accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons,

Mindful of the importance of national and international activities of all relevant organizations aimed at the creation of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation and economic development and the observance of human rights and good-neighbourliness in South-Eastern Europe,

Reaffirming its determination that all nations should live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for full observance of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and the competent organs of the United Nations to respect the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty of all States and the inviolability of international borders, to continue to take measures in accordance with the Charter and the commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and through further development of regional arrangements, as appropriate, to eliminate threats to international peace and security and to help to prevent conflicts in South-Eastern Europe, which can lead to the violent disintegration of States;

3. *Reaffirms* the urgency of consolidating South-Eastern Europe as a region of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation and economic development and for the promotion of good-neighbourliness and the observance of human rights, thus

[2] A/57/98-S/2002/705, annex.
[3] A/56/60-S/2001/234, annex.

contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and enhancing the prospects for sustained development and prosperity for all peoples in the region as an integral part of Europe, and recognizes the role of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union in promoting regional disarmament;

4. *Calls upon* all participants in the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, as well as all concerned international organizations, to continue to support the efforts of the States of South-Eastern Europe towards regional stability and cooperation so as to enable them to pursue sustainable development and integration into European structures;

5. *Calls upon* all States and relevant international organizations to contribute to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as well as Council resolutions 1345 (2001) and 1371 (2001);

6. *Recognizes* the efforts made and activities undertaken in Kosovo by the United Nations and the Kosovo Force for the establishment of a multi-ethnic and stable Kosovo, thus contributing to a further improvement of the overall security situation in the region;

7. *Rejects* the use of violence in pursuit of political aims, and stresses that only peaceful political solutions can assure a stable and democratic future for South-Eastern Europe;

8. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States, and calls upon all States to resolve their disputes with other States by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter;

9. *Urges* the strengthening of relations among the States of South-Eastern Europe on the basis of respect for international law and agreements, in accordance with the principles of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect;

10. *Recognizes* the efforts of the international community, and welcomes in particular the assistance already provided by the European Union and the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe as well as other contributors in promoting the long-term process of democratic and economic development of the region;

11. *Stresses* the importance of enhanced regional cooperation for the development of the South-Eastern European States in the priority areas of infrastructure, transport, trade, energy and environment;

12. *Also stresses* that the rapprochement of the South-Eastern European States with the European Union will favourably influence the security, political and economic situation in the region, as well as good-neighbourly relations among the States;

13. *Further stresses* the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing conflicts that endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, and in this regard notes with satisfaction the role of the Multinational Peace Force for South-Eastern Europe;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuous regional efforts and intensified dialogue in South-Eastern Europe aimed at arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures as well as strengthening cooperation and undertaking

appropriate measures at the national, subregional and regional levels to prevent all acts of terrorism;

15. *Recognizes* the seriousness of the problem of anti-personnel mines in some parts of South-Eastern Europe, welcomes in this context the efforts of the international community in support of mine action, and encourages States to join and support these efforts;

16. *Urges* all States to take effective measures against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to help programmes and projects aimed at the collection and safe destruction of surplus stocks of small arms and light weapons, and stresses the importance of closer cooperation among States, inter alia, in crime prevention, combating terrorism, trafficking in human beings, organized crime, drug trafficking and money-laundering;

17. *Calls upon* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the subject of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe".